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NCLC (not)
Caucus of Labor
Committees

NCLC battles 'CIA plot'

On January 24, the National Caucus of Labor Committees (NCLC) held their first meeting of the new year in this area. In recent months many factors, inside and outside the group, have been at work, and the results were demonstrated Thursday evening.

By Daniel Kimmel

I spoke first with Robert Zubrin, a member of the on-campus group. "Our main purpose on campus is education," he told me. "The Labor Committee is really a nationwide movement of the working class to take over the government and run it and the economy for the working class."

The UR group wants only to educate and recruit students on campus, he explained.

After an off-campus group disrupted a meeting last fall, the NCLC was required to apply for student activity status with the SA. I asked Zubrin if he would apply to the Appropriations Committee for money should they be accepted.

He was not certain if they would receive money, or indeed, if they were eligible for it. They would at least try to get funding, he said. The money would be used for "travelling expenses and possibly honorariums to speakers" that the NCLC has.

Last year the Outside Speakers Committee gave some money to the group, but this year they have met financial obligations alone.

Concerning the possible outbreak of violence at meetings, he said that his organization is non-violent but cannot speak for other groups. The NCLC has been so careful in guarding themselves against attack that I was thoroughly frisked before I was allowed to enter the meeting.

After the meeting I was allowed to interview Anthony Chaitkin, one-time mayoral candidate in New York City, and now his party's candidate for governor.

I decided to question him on the statements of NCLC that were being publicized in *New Solidarity*, the organization's newspaper.

A recent handout called for the end to the study of behavioral psychology on college campuses and I asked him why.

"Behavioral psychology is quack," he charged. "They're training people like dogs. They think of people as no better than dogs." He went on to say, "This is not psychology. These people are witch doctors. They're superstitious." He claimed that they were "deliberately degrading the human mind" and were no better than the Nazis. Chaitkin said these charges have all been documented, and NCLC is willing to share the evidence with other groups.

"We are developing now a movement which will close down this type of psychology course being offered in school," he concluded.

I spoke to Dr. Will Johnson, of the UR Psychology Department, and asked him to comment. After hearing a tape recording of Chaitkin's remarks, Dr. Johnson said that Chaitkin is "misinformed."

"The statements that he made attacking behaviorism as a way to study psychology are not based on anything at all," he told me.

Concerning behaviorist therapy, he said that if Chaitkin "knew more about that I think that he might agree that behavioral approaches are very humanitarian."

The main point of the discussion, though, was "Operation Nuremberg," a system whereby people who have committed crimes against humanity would be tried as in the Nuremberg Trials against Nazis at the end of World War II.

Chaitkin explained the conspiracy theory to me. The CIA, he believes, is plotting to take over the United States. They have almost succeeded in Great Britain, he asserted, yet many newspapers, such as the *New York Times*, have offered no coverage on what he termed "the biggest story since the Bay of Pigs."

On the basis of this and a recent article in the *Times* which Chaitkin called "scandalous and inaccurate," the NCLC has charged that the *Times* is party to the CIA plot.

Zubrin informed me earlier in the evening that "the *Times* is the mouth of the same group of people that the CIA is the fist of."

The NCLC's role in all this, Chaitkin stated, was to fight the CIA, which he claimed was backed by former governor Nelson Rockefeller and his associates. Although NCLC is a small group, they would help the working class organize.

Suppose, I asked, the people reject the NCLC, would they continue in spite of the people?

He seemed surprised at the question. "Are you asking that seriously, or did someone give you that or program you to ask that question?" "Programming" is the term they use for the alleged CIA brainwashing operation.

He admitted that without the support of the people the Labor Committee would be "defeated." His job, as he sees it, is to help educate and organize the working classes in the fight against the CIA plot to institute fascist rule in the world.

How are they doing this, I asked.

The NCLC claims that Rockefeller and the CIA dreamed up Watergate to demoralize the country so it would be ripe for a coup in 1976. While holding no great love for Nixon, Chaitkin feels that Nixon is being used for the CIA's benefit.

Another method might be to use Dr. Nathan S. Kline, a doctor at Rockland State Hospital, a mental institution, who, according to Chaitkin, "intends to put lithium in

the water supply in New York City."

Lithium is a drug used in the treatment of manic depressives.

When making these statements Zubrin, Chaitkin, and the other NCLC people give the impression of sincere belief.

They say that Henry Kissinger, Eric Sevareid, and William Buckley have all joined forces with the CIA, and they mean it.

Are they just "misinformed"? Are they just a group of paranoid extremists as some of their literature would have you believe? Can the CIA actually take over Great Britain without anyone, save NCLC, noticing?

In the end it appears to be a question of trust. Who do you believe? The *New York Times* or *New Solidarity*?